

Appl. No. 09/678,364
Amdt. Dated November 8, 2005
Reply to Office action of August 11, 2005
Attorney Docket No. P12309-US1
EUS/J/P/05-1297

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of signalling in a communications system comprising a Call Control level and a Bearer Control level, where the Call Control level comprises a plurality of Media Gateway Controllers and the Bearer Control level comprises a plurality of Media Gateways each of which is controlled by a Media Gateway Controller, the method comprising allocating to each of said plurality of Media Gateways at least one address, ~~which address~~ wherein said at least one address corresponds to one of a plurality of different addressing formats, and conveying ~~these addresses~~ said at least one address between peer Media Gateway Controllers using Bearer Independent Call Control (BICC) or Transport Independent Call Control (TICC) by encapsulating ~~said address~~ said at least one address using the Network Service Access Point (NSAP) addressing format as defined in ITU-T recommendation X.213.
2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~communications network~~ communications system is a telecommunications network in which the Call Control level is used to establish and control call connections between a calling party and a called party at the Bearer Control level.
3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of Media Gateways provide access to transport networks which extend between peer Media Gateways, and the transport networks use one of IP, AAL2, or ATM transmission mechanisms.
4. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the format of the at least one address allocated to a Media Gateway is the format used by a transport network to which that Media Gateway provides access.

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5. (Currently Amended) A communications system comprising;
a Call Control level comprising a plurality of Media Gateway Controllers; and
a Bearer Control level comprising a plurality of Media Gateways each of which is controlled by a Media Gateway Controller and each of which is allocated at least one address, ~~which address~~ wherein said at least one address corresponds to one of a plurality of different addressing formats,

wherein each said ~~peer Media Gateway Controllers~~ Controller communicates Media Gateway addresses using Bearer Independent Call Control (BICC) or Transport Independent Call Control (TICC) by encapsulating said addresses using the Network Service Access Point (NSAP) addressing format as defined in ITU-T recommendation X.213.

6. (Currently Amended) A Media Gateway Controller of a communications system, the Media Gateway Controller comprising:

means for communicating with at least one Media Gateway for the purpose of establishing and controlling call connections over a transport network to which the Media Gateway is coupled, the Media Gateway being allocated at least one address, ~~which address~~ wherein said at least one address corresponds to one of a plurality of different addressing formats; and

means for communicating with at least one peer Media Gateway Controller using a Bearer Independent Call Control (BICC) protocol, a BICC protocol conveying Media Gateway addresses by encapsulating said addresses using the Network Service Access Point (NSAP) addressing format as defined in ITU-T recommendation X.213.

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